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Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group

2009 substantive session (23 February-20 March 2009)

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Note

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. By its resolution 62/273, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/62/19), decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and should review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field, and requested the Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

Chapter II
Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations held its 2009 session at United Nations Headquarters from 23 February to 20 March 2009 and held six formal meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. At the 206th (opening) meeting, on 23 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support delivered statements.

4. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support provided support to the Committee on substantive issues, while the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the technical secretariat of the Committee.

B. Election of officers

5. At its 206th meeting, the Committee elected its officers by acclamation as follows:

Chairperson:
Mrs. U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Mr. Diego Limeres (Argentina)
Mr. Henri-Paul Normandin (Canada)
Mr. Tetsuya Kimura (Japan)
Mr. Zbigniew Szlek (Poland)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Amr El-Sherbini (Egypt)

C. Agenda

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.121/2009/L.1), which read:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. General debate.
6. Consideration of the draft report by the Working Group of the Whole.
7. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.
8. Other matters.

7. The Committee also approved its draft programme of work (A/AC.121/2009/L.2).

D. Organization of work

8. Also at its 206th meeting, the Committee decided to establish a working group of the whole, to be chaired by Henri-Paul Normandin (Canada), to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly.

9. The composition of the Committee at its 2009 session is shown in the annex to the present report. The list of participants at the session is contained in A/AC.121/2009/INF/2 and Add.1. The list of documents for the session is contained in A/AC.121/2009/INF/3/Rev.1.

E. Proceedings of the Committee

10. At its 206th to 209th meetings, on 23 and 24 February, the Committee held a general debate on a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, as well as Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico (on behalf of the Rio Group), Morocco (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Nepal, New Zealand (on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand), Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, the Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay and Viet Nam. Statements were also made by the observers for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

11. At its 210th meeting, on 18 March, under agenda item 8, "Other matters", the Committee was briefed by the Chairman of the African Union-United Nations panel on modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations, Romano Prodi.

12. During the course of the session, informal briefings were provided to the Working Group of the Whole on the following topics: comprehensive report on the restructuring of the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support; mission planning (civil and military); Police Division review; report on the Standing Police Capacity; peacebuilding and early recovery; mission management (Joint Mission Analysis Centre, Joint Operations Centre, Joint Logistics Operations Centre); report of the Working Group on the deployable rule of law capacity; implementation of mandated tasks; and technical monitoring.

13. The Working Group of the Whole and its six sub-working groups met from 25 February to 20 March, and concluded their work on the draft recommendations.

Chapter III
Consideration of the draft report of the Working Group

14. At its 211th meeting, on 20 March, the Committee considered the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole and decided to include its recommendations in the current report (see paras. 16-180) for consideration by the General Assembly.

Chapter IV

Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session

15. At its 211th meeting, on 20 March, the Committee adopted its draft report to the General Assembly as introduced by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

Chapter V
Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

A. Introduction

16. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in making its recommendations, reaffirms the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

17. The Special Committee pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

18. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that United Nations peacekeeping is one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The Special Committee, as the only United Nations forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations, is uniquely able to make a significant contribution in the area of issues and policy relating to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It encourages other United Nations bodies, funds and programmes to avail themselves of the Special Committee's particular perspective on United Nations peacekeeping operations. Thus the Special Committee — as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly — recalls that its recommendations and conclusions reflect, first and foremost, its unique peacekeeping expertise.

19. Noting the sustained surge in United Nations peacekeeping efforts in various parts of the world, which requires the participation of Member States in various activities, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be able to effectively maintain international peace and security. This calls for, inter alia, an improved capacity to assess conflict situations, effective planning and management of United Nations peacekeeping operations and quick and effective responses to any Security Council mandate.

20. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as definitions of peacekeeping, in a systematic fashion. New proposals or conditions concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations should be the subject of a thorough consideration in the Special Committee.

21. The Special Committee recalls that United Nations peacekeeping is conducted in accordance with the relevant Chapters of the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, nothing in the present report circumscribes the primary responsibility of the Security Council to maintain or restore international peace and security.

B. Guiding principles, definition and implementation of mandates

22. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State is crucial to common efforts, including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

23. The Special Committee believes that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in the defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council, is essential to its success.

24. The Special Committee recognizes that peacekeeping operations have become more complex and as such a common understanding of terminology is required in order to promote common approaches and cooperation.

25. The Special Committee is of the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, using political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security and development.

26. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter. The Special Committee notes the statements by the President of the Security Council of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38) and 20 February 2001 (S/PRST/2001/5) with regard to the inclusion, as appropriate, of peacebuilding elements in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition to a successful post-conflict phase. The Special Committee stresses the importance of those elements being explicitly defined and clearly identified before being incorporated into the mandates of peacekeeping operations, whenever appropriate. The Special Committee emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in the formulation of post-conflict peacebuilding activities.

27. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of peacekeeping operations being provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, adequate resources based on a realistic assessment of the situation and secure financing, in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, adequate resources and congruity between mandates, resources and realizable objectives. The Special Committee emphasizes that, when changes are made to an existing mandate, commensurate changes should be made in the resources available to a peacekeeping operation to carry out its new mandate. Changes in the mandate of an ongoing mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council in consultation with troop-contributing countries through the mechanisms prescribed in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) of 13 June 2001 and the note by the President of the Security Council dated 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56).

28. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of United Nations peacekeeping operations are within the purview of the Security Council.

C. Restructuring of peacekeeping

29. The Special Committee notes that in recent years the number of complex peacekeeping operations has increased and, as a consequence, the Security Council has mandated peacekeeping operations that have included, in addition to the traditional tasks of monitoring and reporting, a number of other activities. In that regard, the Special Committee stresses the importance of effective Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support that are efficiently structured and adequately staffed.

30. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations (A/63/702 and Corr.1). It is regrettable that the Special Committee did not have sufficient time to fully study the content of that report because of the issuance date. Notwithstanding that situation the Special Committee considers that the matters outlined in the following paragraphs should be brought to the attention of the Secretariat for action.

31. The Special Committee notes that a number of senior posts within the Department of Field Support are unfilled. The Special Committee recommends urgent action be taken to fill all vacant positions, in both the Department of Field Support and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

32. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of preserving unity of command in missions at all levels as well as coherence in policy and strategy and clear command structures in the field and up to and including at Headquarters. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure a clear chain of command, accountability, coordination and maintenance of an adequate system of checks and balances. In this regard the Special Committee refers to paragraphs 22 and 27 of General Assembly resolution 61/279, whereby the Assembly noted that the new structure might present some major management challenges, and stressed that structural change is no substitute for managerial improvement.

33. The Special Committee acknowledges the establishment of the seven integrated operational teams, and stresses that the success of the restructuring hinges upon the principles of unity of command and integration of efforts at all levels, in the field and at Headquarters. In this regard, the Special Committee notes with concern that the integrated operational teams have yet to function effectively and efficiently. The Special Committee requests that urgent attention be given to improving communication links with Member States. Given the concerns of the Special Committee, the Secretary-General is requested to provide a report on the implementation of the integrated operational teams before the end of 2009.

D. Safety and security

34. The Special Committee remains gravely concerned about the precarious security environment prevailing in many peacekeeping missions and, in that context, calls upon the Secretariat to give the utmost priority to enhancing the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel in the field. It condemns, in the strongest terms, the killing of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and all acts of violence against such personnel and recognizes that they constitute a major challenge to United Nations field operations. The Special Committee also condemns restrictions in any form on the freedom of movement of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and assets within the mandate, in particular restrictions in respect of medical evacuation.

35. In particular, the Special Committee condemns, in the strongest terms, targeted attacks against United Nations personnel and all criminal acts against such personnel, including carjacking. It also finds totally unacceptable any attempts to seize or destroy United Nations and contingent-owned property. The Special Committee stresses the importance of fully respecting the obligations relating to the use of vehicles and premises of United Nations peacekeeping personnel as defined by relevant international instruments, as well as the obligations relating to distinctive emblems recognized in the Geneva Conventions.

36. The Special Committee urges those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and the Optional Protocol thereto. The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 58/82, in particular its recommendation that key provisions of the Convention, including those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, be included in status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and host countries.

37. The Special Committee takes note of the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee regarding an effective mechanism for periodic risk analysis in peacekeeping missions and at Headquarters (A/63/615/Add.1, item 15). However, the Special Committee reiterates its original request concerning sharing information with troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries, and it advocates that a properly planned and mandated mission, encompassing well trained, equipped and disciplined contingents that are deployed in the context of an ongoing political process, is the best assurance against such risks. In this regard, the Special Committee underlines the important roles of the troop- and police-contributing countries and the United Nations Secretariat.

38. The Special Committee reiterates its request regarding the involvement of Member States in United Nations boards of inquiry, except for misconduct cases, where relevant memorandums of understanding will apply. The Special Committee requests continuation of the practice of constant communication with concerned Member States whenever there is an incident in a peacekeeping mission that negatively affects operational effectiveness or results in serious injury to or the death of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, until the conclusion of the investigation of the incident. The Special Committee urges that the findings of

boards of inquiry on serious injury or death be immediately communicated to the concerned Member States, including troop-contributing countries, as appropriate, and that lessons learned from such incidents, and field-risk assessments, be shared with all Member States.

39. The Special Committee notes with concern that some deployed troop formations are being stretched to cover geographic areas that exceed their capacities. Such practices not only threaten the safety and security of these troops, but also adversely affect their performance, discipline and command and control. In this regard, the Special Committee urges that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations ensure that United Nations peacekeeping personnel are deployed in accordance with agreed concepts of operation and deployment arrangements. The redeployment of troops in support of evolving situations should be done with the consent of troop-contributing countries.

40. The Special Committee recalls paragraph 46 of its previous report (A/62/19) and reiterates that peacekeeping operations should be adequately manned to ensure within their mandates the safety and security of United Nations personnel. The Special Committee further reiterates its request to the Secretariat to present a thorough policy for screening and verification before hiring local security personnel, which includes, inter alia, background checks on any criminal and human rights violations of the candidates, as well as links to security companies.

41. The Special Committee reiterates its request that clear guidelines and procedures be put in place to facilitate information-sharing regarding safety and security issues as well as security management in peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls paragraph 49 of its report (A/62/19) and requests that information on the security risk management model being developed by the Inter-Agency Security Management Network be made available to the Member States along with the methodology of implementation of the policy issued in May 2008.

42. The Special Committee notes the progress made towards a wider and systemic use of technology in peacekeeping operations. However, the Special Committee believes further progress is required. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the development of a United Nations policy on monitoring and surveillance technology, and looks forward to a report on this subject within six months of the issuance of this Committee's findings. The Special Committee believes that due attention should be given to legal, operational, technical and financial considerations and especially the consent of the countries concerned with regard to their application in the field.

43. The Special Committee, bearing in mind the evolution of the security situation in a number of peacekeeping missions, underlines the importance of adequate measures to ensure the safety and security of all individual military and police officers, especially unarmed military observers.

44. The Special Committee notes item 18 in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/615/Add.1), on improving relevant policies and procedures to enhance the existing mechanism in the Secretariat and the field to manage crisis situations in a well-coordinated and effective manner. The Special Committee requests that the joint standard operating procedures on Headquarters response to crisis management

may be made known to the Member States as soon as possible and before the next substantive session.

45. The Special Committee underlines the importance it places on the safety and security of peacekeepers in the field and is gravely concerned about the loss of precious human lives as a result of the negligence and incompetence of medical staff. The Special Committee emphasizes the responsibility of the United Nations to ensure that medical personnel assigned in mission areas are qualified to provide immediate and proper medical attention to peacekeepers and to hold them accountable. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to review, and report back to Member States at the earliest opportunity on, its oversight structure and procedures at the Secretariat and in the field to ensure a proper supervision and support of the four levels of medical support to United Nations missions.

46. The Special Committee takes note of the information provided under item 10 in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/615/Add.1). The Special Committee reiterates its original request that the liaison arrangements of United Nations field operations, which are to maintain contact with the parties concerned, should be improved at appropriate levels, especially tactical and operational levels in the field, so as to establish effective immediate responses to safety and security issues as required.

47. The Special Committee welcomes progress made to date in the development of the Joint Operations Centres and Joint Mission Analysis Centres in field missions led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. To further this strand of work, the Special Committee recommends that the Chief of the Situation Centre, who chairs the Joint Operation Centre-Joint Mission Analysis Centre Support Group newly established by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, oversee further development of these concepts and brief the Special Committee on a biannual basis on its outputs. The Special Committee looks forward to the completion of the draft guidelines on the Joint Mission Analysis Centres before its regular session in 2010.

E. Conduct and discipline

48. The Special Committee reaffirms the need to ensure that all personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. The Special Committee emphasizes that misconduct is unacceptable and has a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of mandates, in particular with respect to the relations between United Nations peacekeeping personnel and the population of host countries. The prevention of any acts of misconduct and the maintenance of discipline of United Nations peacekeeping personnel is a responsibility of managers and commanders at all levels of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee emphasizes that the leadership of managers and commanders is vital in the prevention of misconduct.

49. The Special Committee affirms that any kind of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel is detrimental to the missions and to the image of the Organization, and has adverse effects on the population of the host countries. The Special Committee re-emphasizes the principle that the same standards of conduct must be applied to all categories of United Nations peacekeeping personnel without exception.

Violations of these standards will result in appropriate action within the authority of the Secretary-General, while criminal and disciplinary responsibility in respect of members of national contingents depends on the national law of the Member State. The Special Committee affirms that all peacekeeping personnel must be informed of and adhere to all applicable rules, regulations, provisions and guidelines provided by the United Nations for peacekeepers, as well as to national laws and regulations. All acts of misconduct should be investigated and punished without delay in accordance with due process of law as well as with memoranda of understanding that have been concluded between the United Nations and Member States.

50. The Special Committee reiterates that troop-contributing countries bear the primary responsibility for maintaining discipline among their contingents deployed in peacekeeping missions.

51. The Special Committee requests that the United Nations take appropriate measures to prevent unsubstantiated allegations of misconduct from damaging the credibility of any United Nations peacekeeping mission or troop-contributing country or United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee requests that the United Nations ensure that steps are taken to restore the image and credibility of any United Nations peacekeeping mission or troop-contributing country or United Nations peacekeeping personnel when allegations of misconduct are, ultimately, legally unproven.

52. The Special Committee reiterates that the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse should be part of the performance objectives of managers and commanders involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee encourages managers and commanders to continue to facilitate the investigations within their existing responsibilities. The Special Committee encourages Member States and the Secretariat, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to address the issues of accountability within their respective purviews.

53. The Special Committee welcomes the finalization of work on the revised model memorandum of understanding and urges its expeditious implementation. The Special Committee encourages the Secretary-General and relevant troop-contributing countries to take the necessary measures to include new provisions on conduct and discipline in all memoranda of understanding agreed between the United Nations and Member States, including those signed prior to the adoption by the General Assembly of the revised model memorandum of understanding, which will include the new provisions on conduct and discipline.

54. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Conduct and Discipline Unit at United Nations Headquarters and the conduct and discipline teams in the field.

55. The Special Committee takes note of the Secretary-General's report on strengthening investigations (A/62/582 and Corr.1) and looks forward to the outcome of the General Assembly's deliberations on it.

56. The Special Committee underlines the importance of continued and strengthened efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Stressing the importance of eliminating all forms of misconduct, the Special Committee remains concerned about new cases of misconduct reported, including sexual exploitation and abuse,

and about the number of outstanding allegations still awaiting investigation, and encourages continued efforts to address this backlog, in accordance, where applicable, with the new model memorandum of understanding. The Special Committee welcomes progress made towards the elimination and prevention of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Committee, while noting the continuing decline in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, regrets that the number of the most egregious allegations has not gone down, and reiterates its suggestion that in future it would be useful for such data to be disaggregated according to the type of serious misconduct alleged, to permit a deeper analysis of the occurrences of sexual exploitation and abuse.

57. The Special Committee, while acknowledging that it may not always be possible to generate military police from specific troop-contributing countries, requests the Secretariat to consider generating force military police units, which will be required to conduct investigations of acts of misconduct, from the countries which contribute the troops to a particular mission.

58. The Special Committee takes note of General Assembly resolution 63/119 on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, and looks forward to continuation of these efforts.

59. The Special Committee encourages further strengthening of cooperation and coordination among the Conduct and Discipline Unit at United Nations Headquarters; its teams in the field; the Office of Internal Oversight Services; and other relevant entities, both at Headquarters and in the field.

60. The Special Committee welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 62/214 containing the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel. The Special Committee looks forward to the publication of the sexual exploitation and abuse victim assistance guide prepared by the Secretariat for the implementation of the Strategy throughout the United Nations system, and requests an update on progress by 2010.

61. The Special Committee reaffirms the importance of welfare and recreation for the personnel serving in peacekeeping operations, including non-contingent personnel, bearing in mind that welfare and recreation also contribute to strengthening morale and discipline. The Special Committee believes that the provision of facilities related to welfare and recreation should be adequately prioritized during the establishment of peacekeeping missions. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of General Assembly resolution 62/252, which provided for the welfare and recreation needs of contingent personnel, and looks forward to consideration of the Secretary-General's report, including on the welfare and recreation needs of non-contingent personnel. The Special Committee reaffirms the important role of troop- and police-contributing countries in the welfare and recreation of contingent personnel.

F. Strengthening operational capacity

1. General

62. The Special Committee takes note with interest of the New Horizon initiative being undertaken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. The Special Committee encourages the two Departments to engage with troop-contributing countries in the development of this initiative and looks forward for close interaction between the Secretariat and Member States in this process.

63. The Special Committee believes that a sound interaction and better understanding must be maintained between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries to devise clear, unambiguous and achievable mandates and to generate and mobilize the necessary political, human, financial and logistical resources and information capacity to achieve the mandates.

64. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to seek the most efficient use of available resources for United Nations peacekeeping operations.

65. The Special Committee is of the opinion that there should be adequate capabilities and clear and appropriate guidelines for peacekeeping missions so that they are able to carry out all their mandated tasks.

66. The Special Committee is of the view that, whenever the mandate of a mission is changed or amended, the Secretariat should ensure, at the earliest opportunity, that the operational documents (including concept of operations and rules of engagement) conform with the changed mandate. The Special Committee reaffirms that the views of concerned troop- and police-contributing countries should be given due consideration during this process.

67. The Special Committee strongly recommends that the Security Council be fully advised on the availability of the operational and logistical capabilities which would be necessary for the success of a peacekeeping operation, prior to making a decision on a new or major change to an existing mandate.

2. Military capacities

68. The Special Committee underlines the vital importance of the military function within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and emphasizes the need for timely, accurate and detailed assessment of the situation in the areas of peacekeeping operations, in close coordination with the field missions, troop-contributing countries and host countries.

69. The Special Committee reiterates the need for timeliness and transparency in the recruitment of senior positions in the Office of Military Affairs and the head and deputy head of the military component in the field missions, and requests that Member States be kept informed of the progress in recruitment in a timely fashion.

70. The Special Committee recalls paragraphs 36 and 37 of General Assembly resolution 62/250, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs and its impact on the organization and capacities of the Office, and requested the Special Committee to consider the report at its 2010 substantive

session. The Special Committee looks forward to considering that report, and requests the Secretariat to assess the efficiency of the Office of Military Affairs in the light of the recent strengthening, and to address the issue of start-up and surge capacity, including through the idea of temporary dedicated mission cells within the Office, staffed with personnel provided by participating troop-contributing countries.

71. The Special Committee recalls section B of General Assembly resolution 59/288, on the audit of safeguarding air safety standards while procuring air services for United Nations peacekeeping missions, as well as the recent strengthening of aviation safety capacity both at Headquarters and in the field, as part of the realignment of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Special Committee, having discussed extensively the concerns about the use of military utility helicopters in peacekeeping missions, and having identified differentiating views of Member States on the reasons for their use, requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly before the end of 2009, in close consultation with the Member States in a transparent manner, a comprehensive report on the current status and developments in the area of aviation safety in United Nations peacekeeping, including administrative and safety arrangements related to the management and use of military utility helicopters in peacekeeping missions.

72. The Special Committee recommends that, in order to overcome the contingent-owned equipment and sustainability shortfalls faced by some troop- and police-contributing countries, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support continue to facilitate various enabling arrangements, including through other Member States and bilateral arrangements.

3. United Nations police capacities

73. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the review of the Police Division carried out since its last report. The Committee notes the sustained increase of the police dimension in a number of missions and stresses, in that context, the importance of maintaining an appropriate support capacity at Headquarters to ensure an adequate level of oversight and guidance to the field. The Committee acknowledges the gaps in the capacities of the Police Division, and stresses the importance of addressing them in a timely manner, in order to ensure efficiency and transparency in the work of the Police Division.

74. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the report of the Panel of Experts on the Standing Police Capacity (see A/63/630), and further notes the results of the report. The Special Committee welcomes the accomplishments of the Standing Police Capacity. It recalls the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (A/59/565 and Corr.1, para. 223) and all relevant decisions of the General Assembly regarding the Standing Police Capacity.

75. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to continue its efforts in developing standard operating guidelines and procedures and guidelines for United Nations policing, including for formed police units, in close consultation with Member States.

76. The Special Committee recognizes the need to recruit qualified personnel for police components of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and encourages the Secretariat to improve procedures and guidance, in close cooperation with

contributing countries, for timely, effective and transparent evaluation and recruitment of candidates.

4. Rapid deployment

77. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the informal open-ended working group on enhanced rapidly deployable capacities (A/AC.121/2009/1), which agreed that the concept is currently not viable, given the lack of appropriate financial arrangements and support from Member States for this purpose. However the Special Committee invites the Secretariat to further explore other possibilities until its next substantive session, in order to make the necessary capacities available for United Nations peacekeeping missions in crisis. Further, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to develop appropriate risk mitigation strategies during its planning process to address the operational requirements of crisis situations.

78. The Special Committee takes note of the existing United Nations Standby Arrangement System and requests the Secretariat to engage with Member States to assess its effectiveness.

5. Integrated planning

79. The Special Committee reiterates the need for the full implementation of the integrated mission planning process and welcomes in this regard the production of the integrated mission planning process guidance package. The Special Committee calls for periodic briefings by the Secretariat on the status of its implementation.

6. Doctrine and terminology

80. The Special Committee takes note of the internal Secretariat publication entitled "United Nations peacekeeping operations: principles and guidelines", bearing in mind that it does not create legal obligations for Member States or their contingents. The Special Committee takes note of the efforts of the Secretariat in undertaking consultations during its development. The Special Committee believes that further work on documents related to United Nations peacekeeping should take duly into account the views of Member States and be the subject of a thorough consideration in the Special Committee.

G. Strategies for complex peacekeeping operations

1. General

81. The Special Committee stresses that sustainable progress on security, national reconciliation and development need to occur in parallel, given the interconnected nature of those challenges in countries emerging from conflict.

82. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations need to be complemented with activities aimed at effectively improving the living conditions of the affected populations, including quick implementation of highly effective and visible projects that help to create jobs and deliver basic social services in the post-conflict phase.

83. The Special Committee stresses that the United Nations system and the international community, in particular donor countries, in cooperation with national

authorities, should develop and engage in coordination systems, which should focus on immediate needs as well as long-term reconstruction and poverty reduction. The Special Committee recognizes that better coordination with United Nations country teams and the various development actors is of paramount importance to ensure greater efficiency in development efforts and address urgent development problems.

84. The Special Committee reiterates that there is no one-size-fits-all model for multidimensional peacekeeping operations and that each mission should take into account the needs of the country concerned.

2. Peacebuilding issues and the Peacebuilding Commission

85. The Special Committee reaffirms the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to plan and conduct United Nations peacekeeping activities in such a manner as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding, the prevention of the recurrence of armed conflicts, and progress towards sustainable peace and development. The Special Committee underlines the importance of effective coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Department of Political Affairs, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and non-United Nations partners in the planning and implementation of peacebuilding efforts, building on their respective strengths, particularly at the early stage of United Nations engagement in post-conflict situations. To help achieve this, the Special Committee emphasizes the need for a coordinated strategic assessment and planning process for peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities in order to ensure an integrated and coherent approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and sustainable peace. While noting that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is in the lead on all operational matters relating to the planning and the conduct of integrated peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee notes the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in providing timely advice when requested on mandated peacebuilding activities undertaken by United Nations peacekeeping operations, in particular by ensuring that those activities are sustainable and in conformity with peacebuilding strategies.

86. The Special Committee underlines the need to formulate peacebuilding strategies and programmes that are integrated with host-country strategies and programmes to ensure national ownership.

87. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, taking into account the work of relevant United Nations bodies such as the Peacebuilding Commission as well as the Peacebuilding Support Office, further explore opportunities for partnerships in post-conflict situations with international financial institutions, as well as regional arrangements, with a view to establishing effective cooperation.

88. The Special Committee underlines the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in particular in developing, in consultation with national Governments, integrated peacebuilding strategies and marshalling resources for their implementation, as well as its efforts to ensure fulfilment of mutual commitments on the part of all relevant stakeholders, enhance the coordination of relevant actors on the ground and promote dialogue on cross-cutting peacebuilding issues and lessons learned from past experience.

89. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Support Office to ensure that lessons learned from experience gained in the transition from United Nations peacekeeping operations to integrated peacebuilding offices are captured, and notes the importance of those lessons being taken into consideration in other transitional processes.

90. The Special Committee recognizes the need to support national Governments in the delivery of critical recovery and peacebuilding requirements in immediate post-conflict environments. In this respect, the Special Committee looks forward to the issuance of the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict. The Special Committee calls upon the relevant United Nations organs to take note of the need to enhance the ability of the United Nations to support national peacebuilding efforts in a more effective and timely manner.

3. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

91. The Special Committee stresses that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are crucial components of peacekeeping operations and that their success depends upon the political will and concerted effort of all parties. It is crucial therefore that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are firmly established within a political process and that all actors are prepared for a multi-year programme. The Special Committee recognizes that the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is an evolving field and that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes could be tailored to specific contexts, mindful of the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and their dependants and to ensure consistency with national strategies, and stresses that the civilian reintegration of ex-combatants poses particular challenges, requiring concerted efforts to help rapidly jump-start the economy in order to create employment opportunities for ex-combatants and the wider community. In this regard, the Special Committee welcomes the ongoing support provided to field missions by the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and reiterates the importance of close partnership with national Governments, other United Nations actors, the World Bank, donors, partners, regional arrangements and non-governmental agencies in the design and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. The Special Committee reiterates the need for the work being undertaken to clarify the relationship between security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to be completed and presented to the Special Committee.

4. Security sector reform

92. The Special Committee recognizes that security sector reform is a nationally owned process. The Special Committee notes that the General Assembly has a relevant role to play in the development of an overarching United Nations approach to security sector reform; the Special Committee, in particular, is able to make a significant contribution in the area of security sector reform in United Nations peacekeeping. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to elaborate guidelines, in consultation with Member States, and stresses the importance of lessons learned and best practices. The Special Committee requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provide a briefing on its activities

in support of security sector reform, in particular support provided to missions in the field.

93. The engagement of the United Nations in providing assistance for security sector reform through peacekeeping missions should be undertaken at the request of the host country. The Special Committee recognizes that security sector reform in post-conflict countries is normally a long-term process that is nationally owned and rooted in the particular needs and conditions of the country concerned. It is the sovereign right and primary responsibility of the country concerned to determine the national approach and priorities for security sector reform.

94. The Special Committee stresses that the sustainability of security sector reform depends on national ownership and the sustained support of the international community, including bilateral donors. The United Nations and the international community should avoid imposing external models of security sector reform and concentrate on strengthening the capacity of the host country to develop, manage and implement security sector reform through inclusive consultation processes at all stages of transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and sustainable development. The Special Committee believes that the United Nations approach to security sector reform must be flexible, adaptable and tailored to the country concerned.

95. The Special Committee stresses that security sector reform must take place within a broad framework of the rule of law and should contribute to the overall strengthening of United Nations rule of law activities in peacekeeping operations, taking into account that United Nations activities and structures should not be duplicative. To that end, the Committee underlines the importance of coordination to ensure consistency and coherence in the United Nations.

96. The Special Committee recognizes the need for a holistic and coherent United Nations approach to security sector reform and acknowledges the principal role of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in supporting security sector reform activities in peacekeeping missions. The establishment of an effective, professional and accountable national security sector is one of the critical elements in the transition from United Nations peacekeeping to sustainable peace and development, including economic recovery.

97. The Special Committee recognizes and encourages the continued assistance and advice of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions. For delivering this assistance, the Special Committee supports the development of a United Nations roster of senior security sector reform experts who would be available on a short-term consultancy basis.

98. The Special Committee reiterates the need to establish a security sector reform unit in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions on the basis of the capacity approved by the General Assembly. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of incorporating gender perspectives in security sector reform programmes. The Special Committee continues to recognize the need for clear field mechanisms for the coordination and implementation of security sector reform.

5. Rule of law

99. The Special Committee recognizes that creating and sustaining stability in a post-conflict environment requires that the causes of the conflict be addressed and that national and local rule of law capacities be assessed, restored and enhanced, as appropriate, from the beginning of a United Nations peacekeeping operation. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls the importance of respect for the rule of law as a vital contribution to building peace and justice and ending impunity.

100. The Special Committee reiterates the need for greater clarity and specificity in United Nations peacekeeping mandates on rule of law issues and requests that, where mandated, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continue to ensure that rule of law and transitional justice are integrated into the strategic and operational planning of peacekeeping operations. Such a mandate should be fully implemented and ensure national ownership, particularly in respect of support and assistance in building national capacity.

101. The Special Committee welcomes the continued progress made in assessing lessons learned from past experiences and options for strategies in the field of the rule of law for ongoing and future United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to implement lessons learned where appropriate and continue to report on its implementation efforts in this regard.

102. The Special Committee notes the importance on the ongoing development of guidance material for operational rule of law issues, and requests the Secretariat to brief Member States whenever such development of material is initiated and to provide regular information on progress.

103. The Special Committee calls upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, within its responsibility as a lead entity and where mandated in peacekeeping operations, to ensure cooperation and coordination among all relevant United Nations actors, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, in order to ensure an holistic and coherent United Nations approach to the rule of law.

104. The Special Committee, following the recent establishment of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to include in its next annual report an assessment on how the creation of that Office has contributed to closer coherence and synergies among its own sections and between other United Nations actors to deliver rule of law mandates more effectively.

105. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of holistic and integrated rule of law assistance being provided to host countries from the very outset of the establishment of new peacekeeping missions and, in this regard, urges the Secretariat to implement measures to ensure that United Nations staff are made available to implement fully mandates related to the rule of law throughout the life of the mission, taking into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 63/250 and 61/279. The Special Committee calls on the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide further details on the way forward to address comprehensively the provision of adequate rule of law capacity, including in the field, taking into account the relevant provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions.

6. Gender and peacekeeping

106. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring full and effective implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security, and all relevant General Assembly resolutions, particularly 61/143 and 63/155, on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. The Special Committee underlines the gravity of all acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and stresses the importance of addressing the needs of all victims of such acts. The Special Committee recognizes the work undertaken by gender advisers in the field and by the gender trainer in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Special Committee underlines the need to finalize and implement the gender training strategy. The Special Committee looks forward to working with the Secretary-General in the development and implementation of appropriate training programmes for all peacekeeping personnel deployed by the United Nations, to help them better prevent, recognize and respond to sexual violence and other forms of violence against women and girls.

107. The Special Committee acknowledges the importance of the systematic inclusion, in the Secretary-General's written reports on situations of which the Security Council is seized, of observations and recommendations with regard to the issue of sexual violence and the protection of women and girls. The Special Committee looks forward to the proposed development by the Secretary-General of effective guidelines and strategies to enhance the ability of relevant United Nations peacekeeping operations, consistent with their mandates, to address the issue of sexual violence.

108. The Special Committee acknowledges the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. The Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to develop a comprehensive strategy to increase the participation of women in all aspects and at all levels of United Nations peacekeeping operations, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/164 and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). In addition, the Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to support the effective implementation and promotion of gender perspectives in multidimensional peacekeeping activities.

109. The Special Committee recognizes the contribution of the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, and other United Nations entities in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work in a cooperative manner with them, so as to guarantee the necessary coordination in the context of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through, inter alia, the promotion of the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

110. The Special Committee believes that the provision of adequate and updated gender-sensitivity training material to national and regional peacekeeping training centres is important.

111. The Special Committee reiterates its concern at the low proportion of women among United Nations peacekeeping staff at Headquarters and in the field. In

addition, the Special Committee encourages Member States to increase, as appropriate, the participation of women among uniformed personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations, at all levels.

7. Children and peacekeeping

112. The Special Committee recognizes the effort undertaken by the Secretariat on the issue of children and peacekeeping and reaffirms in this regard General Assembly resolutions 62/140 and 63/241 and Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005). The Special Committee recommends the inclusion, where appropriate, of specific child protection provisions in peacekeeping mandates and the deployment, on a case-by-case basis, of child protection advisers in relevant peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee reiterates its request that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations further elaborate the role and responsibilities of child protection advisers within peacekeeping missions and outline clear modalities for cooperation with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, taking care to avoid duplication in the discharge of their respective functions to ensure a comprehensive strategy of prevention and response with respect to all forms of violence against children. Clear modalities on cooperation would also ensure a comprehensive strategy of prevention and response with respect to all forms of violence against children in armed conflict, in particular, but not limited to, recruitment, killing and maiming of children, abduction, sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access to children.

113. The Special Committee takes note of the designation of a focal point in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to liaise with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, within their respective mandates, in order to further the commitment and actions of peacekeeping and to assist in the development of policy guidance in the area of child protection. In this regard, the Special Committee expresses its deep concern about the delay in the appointment of a Special Representative on violence against children, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/141, and requests the Secretary-General to fully comply with the request and to take urgent action to appoint, in accordance with the resolution, at the highest possible level and without delay, a Special Representative.

8. HIV/AIDS and other health-related issues and peacekeeping

114. The Special Committee notes with concern that health-related issues, including cardiovascular diseases, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases, remain the leading causes of fatalities in the field.

115. The Special Committee reiterates its belief that the United Nations should set the highest possible medical standards in protecting peacekeepers in the field from infectious diseases and protecting both peacekeepers and the local population from HIV/AIDS. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes the important work undertaken by HIV/AIDS advisers and focal points in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries to strengthen their efforts to harmonize predeployment and in-country awareness programmes, and to ensure the strict application of United Nations guidelines on medical clearance and medical conditions that preclude

deployment. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes the importance of training all United Nations peacekeeping personnel on medical risks in the mission area in accordance with the guidelines provided.

116. The Special Committee requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support provide an annual briefing to this Committee on the progress made in dealing with health-related issues in peacekeeping operations.

117. The Special Committee recognizes the need to standardize and streamline the reporting of medical data across United Nations peacekeeping missions, including repatriation and mortality data, so that they can be made available to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations periodically for planning, strategic and reporting purposes.

118. The Special Committee notes the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to streamline the collection and dissemination of information related to injuries and fatalities of civilian staff, police and military contingent personnel and military observers in peacekeeping, including through the Notification of Casualty (NOTICAS) system and, in this regard, urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to further strengthen that system to permit more timely dissemination of information to troop- and police-contributing countries concerning incidents involving their nationals.

119. The Special Committee further stresses the need to ensure a speedy and appropriate follow-up on compensation claims submitted by the troop- and police-contributing countries in cases of illness, disability or death attributable to service.

120. The Special Committee underlines the responsibility of troop-contributing countries to ensure appropriate medical examination and clearance of all United Nations personnel from national contingents in accordance with the medical guidelines for peacekeeping operations.

9. Quick-impact projects

121. The Special Committee welcomes the implementation of quick-impact projects by peacekeeping operations and continues to recognize the important contribution they make to the successful implementation of mandates by addressing the immediate needs of local populations and building confidence in, and support for, peacekeeping missions, their mandates and the peace processes. The Special Committee recognizes that quick-impact projects play a key role in strengthening the link between missions and local populations and in accomplishing their objectives, and that their implementation should take into account the situation and needs on the ground.

122. The Special Committee calls for the full implementation of section XVIII of General Assembly resolution 61/276, and stresses that quick-impact projects are an integral part of both mission planning and the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to meet the challenges facing complex peacekeeping operations.

123. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of coordination with humanitarian and development partners to avoid duplication and overlap of

activities between peacekeeping missions and humanitarian and development partners in the field.

124. The Special Committee further appreciates the voluntary and additional contributions of contingents from troop- and police-contributing countries in funding projects in peacekeeping missions.

10. Other mandated tasks, including the protection of civilians

125. The Special Committee reaffirms that all mandated peacekeeping tasks are to be implemented in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations. Such implementation should be supported by a comprehensive peace process involving all stakeholders, underpinned by national ownership and the support of the international community. The Special Committee recognizes that there are a range of important mandated tasks, including, but not limited to, support to the restoration and extension of State authority, support to political processes, and protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the host Government to protect civilians. The Special Committee stresses the key importance of close cooperation with national authorities in the implementation of mandated tasks, as appropriate.

126. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the effective and full implementation of mandates and further stresses the need for close cooperation between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat to ensure that peacekeeping mandates are well defined and achievable. Accordingly, United Nations peacekeeping missions must be provided with all the necessary resources in a timely and efficient manner. These should include consolidated and mission-specific training in all related operational matters to enhance operational capacity, based on lessons learned and best practices from United Nations peacekeeping missions and Member States.

127. The Special Committee acknowledges that the protection of civilians is currently mandated in a number of United Nations peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee recognizes that protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of the host country and accordingly emphasizes that relevant peacekeeping missions with this mandate should conduct their tasks without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the host Government to protect civilians. The Special Committee also acknowledges that the successful conduct of tasks relating to the protection of civilians, wherever a United Nations mandate exists, requires integration of efforts at all levels, and underlines the importance of a comprehensive approach to this issue.

128. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide for its consideration detailed information, based on lessons learned, on the provision of resources, training and concepts of operations in existing peacekeeping missions regarding the mandate of protection of civilians, and requests an assessment of their adequacy in effectively achieving all mandated tasks. The Special Committee further requests the Secretary-General to submit proposals to improve the ability of existing peacekeeping missions to respond to situations adversely affecting civilians, including all the necessary logistical support and training required for troop-contributing countries.

H. Cooperation with troop-contributing countries

129. The Special Committee believes that there is a need to enhance the relationship between those who plan, mandate and manage United Nations peacekeeping operations and those who implement the mandates of those operations. Troop-contributing countries should be involved early and fully in all aspects and stages of United Nations peacekeeping operations so that the experience and expertise of the troop-contributing countries can assist the Security Council in making appropriate, effective and timely decisions on United Nations peacekeeping operations.

130. The Special Committee underlines the importance of interaction between potential troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat in the early stages of planning, and requests the Secretariat to produce predeployment threat assessments and make them available to potential troop-contributing countries. The Special Committee recognizes the benefit to be derived from potential troop-contributing countries making reconnaissance visits to new missions before presenting their pledges to those missions, and encourages such visits.

131. The Special Committee underlines the need for full and effective implementation of the provisions contained in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) and the note by the President of the Security Council of 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56) so as to utilize optimally those mechanisms to forge a stronger relationship with troop-contributing countries. The consultations with troop-contributing countries should be held at all stages of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, including at the request of troop-contributing countries, and in particular in advance of the renewal or mandating of an operation by the Security Council so that the views of troop-contributing countries can contribute meaningfully to the decision-making process.

132. The Special Committee, in order to enhance transparency and effectiveness, urges the Secretariat to circulate in a timely manner copies of the reports of the Secretary-General on specific United Nations peacekeeping operations and to organize regular meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries in a timely manner prior to Security Council consultations. The Special Committee recommends that troop- and police-contributing countries be provided with comprehensive briefings on a regular basis on the situation of each peacekeeping operation. This will enable troop- and police-contributing countries to prepare properly for the meeting and participate more fully. The Special Committee also requests the Secretariat to call immediately for a meeting of troop- and police-contributing countries in all cases of an emergency situation or in the event of a serious incident occurring in a mission area.

133. The Special Committee underlines the importance of better interaction between the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries. The Special Committee encourages the Working Group to implement the recommendations concerning cooperation with troop-contributing countries contained in its report of 13 December 2006 (S/2006/972).

134. The Special Committee emphasizes that any invitation by the Secretariat to meetings on establishing a new peacekeeping mission, or expanding an ongoing one, should be transparent and should include all current and potential troop- and police-contributing countries of a specific mission.

135. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries in a timely manner when planning any change in the tasks, mission-specific rules of engagement, operational concepts or command and control structure which would have an impact on the personnel, equipment, training and logistics requirements, so as to enable troop-contributing countries to give their advice in the planning process and to ensure that their troops have the capacity to meet the new demands. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries concerned when planning a drawdown of troops in any United Nations peacekeeping operation. The drawdown should be implemented only after consideration of inputs from the troop-contributing countries and bearing in mind the situation on the ground.

136. The Special Committee underlines the need for comprehensive, transparent and timely information-sharing with regard to all aspects of peacekeeping operations between the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries. In this regard the Special Committee requests that the Secretariat establish a web-based access for all troop- and police-contributing countries to — at least — all relevant reports, documents, standard operating procedures, directives, guidelines, policies and briefing materials, such as those referred to in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/615/Add.1), in consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries as appropriate.

I. Cooperation with regional arrangements

137. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make to peacekeeping, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, and when the mandate and capacity of regional arrangements or agencies allow.

138. The Special Committee recognizes the valuable work of those regional arrangements or agencies in supporting United Nations peacekeeping and in enhancing the common ability of their member States to contribute to peacekeeping operations, including through the development of capabilities.

139. The Special Committee welcomes all positive developments in the field of cooperation with the regional arrangements or agencies and encourages the Secretariat to further strengthen those linkages, such as the one described in detail in section J below, covering cooperation with the African Union.

J. Enhancement of African peacekeeping capacities

140. The Special Committee underlines the need for a strategic and effective relationship between the United Nations and the African Union in the context of peacekeeping operations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and emphasizes the importance of increasing the capacity of the African Union in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and peacekeeping. In this regard there is a need for coherent and effective coordination of support provided by multiple stakeholders to the African Union in the field of peacekeeping capacity-building.

141. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of implementing the joint action plan for United Nations support to the African Union in peacekeeping in the short, medium and long terms, and the 10-year plan for capacity-building. The Special Committee reiterates the request that the established multidisciplinary African Union peacekeeping support team continue to serve as a coordinating point for all issues in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations related to cooperation with the African Union and to brief the Committee regularly on its functioning and mandate, particularly with regard to the question of providing much-needed support to the regional and subregional capacity.

142. The Special Committee underlines the need to identify ways to address the requirements of the African Union in the context of peacekeeping at the continental level. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of the report prepared by the African Union-United Nations panel on modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations (A/63/666-S/2008/813), and recommends the enhancement of an effective partnership with the African Union to improve the planning, deployment and management of African peacekeeping operations.

143. The Special Committee reaffirms the need to strengthen training and logistics in Africa that are both crucial sectors for an effective and secure peacekeeping. This will further enhance deployment of United Nations peacekeeping missions in Africa, thereby supporting capacity-building of the African Union in the field of peacekeeping operations and ensuring cost-effectiveness. The Special Committee therefore stresses the importance of close coordination between all international partners and donors supporting African Union capacity-building, including through enhancing the effectiveness of the existing training centres.

K. Best practices

144. The Special Committee notes the launch of the website of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, entitled "Peacekeeping Resource Hub: Policy, Lessons Learned and Training for the Peacekeeping Community", which replaced the Peacekeeping Best Practices website in March 2009. The Special Committee expects that this website will enhance global peacekeeping capacity by providing the peacekeeping community with timely access to relevant training standards, materials and tools, as well as relevant guidance documents. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to produce a report, before its next session, on the feasibility of translating its training material into the official languages of the United Nations, as necessary, and those most commonly used by troop-contributing countries.

L. Training

145. Recalling paragraph 180 of its previous report (A/62/19), the Special Committee further urges the Secretariat to translate all peacekeeping training materials into the six United Nations official languages.

146. The Special Committee reaffirms the need to ensure that all personnel selected for peacekeeping missions have the required professional background, expertise and training. The Special Committee recalls, in this regard, the shared responsibility of the Member States and the Secretariat concerning the training of personnel to be

deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations as stated in General Assembly resolution 49/37.

147. The Special Committee takes note of the development by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of its United Nations peacekeeping training strategy, including through incorporating the major findings of the strategic training needs assessment. The Special Committee requests that the progress of the strategy's implementation be presented to the Special Committee by September 2009.

148. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing work of the Integrated Training Service concerning the development of a set of minimum training standards and training modules, and welcomes the updating of these training materials with information on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and HIV/AIDS. The Special Committee requests a briefing prior to the dissemination of these training materials.

149. The Special Committee acknowledges that the increasingly complex and multidimensional nature of peacekeeping demands expertise and experience that most Member States cannot muster on a continuous basis, and in this regard encourages cooperation in peacekeeping training among Member States, including through the provision of training opportunities and assistance to new and emerging troop-contributing countries. The Special Committee welcomes efforts by the Secretariat to facilitate this cooperation.

150. The Special Committee supports the efforts of Member States, and regional arrangements within their mandates, to enhance the capacity of peacekeeping personnel at peacekeeping training centres, and encourages Member States to provide further support for these efforts. The Special Committee also supports the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in providing those peacekeeping training centres, as well as national training focal points, with the necessary guidance for training United Nations peacekeeping personnel. In this regard, the Special Committee looks forward to receiving a comprehensive briefing on the Department's newly developed training guidance materials for those centres, and revised procedures and criteria for United Nations recognition of the centres' courses. The Special Committee looks forward to the rapid resumption of the recognition process.

151. The Special Committee looks forward to further improvement of the standardized training modules for potential senior mission leaders and, recalling paragraph 170 of its previous report (A/62/19), reiterates the need to develop a training package on the integrated mission planning process and to include it as part of the senior mission leader training. The Special Committee looks forward to receiving an update on the progress made in this regard.

152. The Special Committee notes the various initiatives under way to enhance predeployment training capacity for police personnel and to facilitate bilateral training assistance for predeployment when requested by Member States. The Special Committee renews its call for the finalization, in consultation with Member States, of training standards and guidelines for formed police units and the finalization of specialized training modules for police.

153. The Special Committee recalls item 86 in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/615/Add.1), and welcomes the first standardized United Nations police predeployment training curriculum and mission-specific training. The Special

Committee notes the recent predeployment mission-specific training that was conducted in partnership with the Secretariat and Member States, which resulted in an increase from 10 per cent to 70 per cent of newly deployed police personnel who received predeployment training.

154. The Special Committee acknowledges the need for senior mission administration and resources training currently offered under the senior mission administration and resource training programme. It is concerned, however, about the level of integration with the Integrated Training Service. Therefore the Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to evaluate the programme, including through the post-course analysis of each programme, and the feasibility of the Integrated Training Service taking over the conduct of the programme. The Special Committee looks forward to receiving the findings of the evaluation before the programme is institutionalized and funded.

155. The Special Committee takes note of the work carried out by the proficiency testing and training teams for formed police units, calls for the urgent development of deployment guidelines, and notes the planned deployment of mobile training teams and mobile assistance teams, which involves all Member States, as a strategy to ensure that future formed police units are fully effective upon deployment.

156. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the review of the Police Division carried out since its last report. The Special Committee notes the sustained increase in the police dimension in a number of missions, and stresses the importance of maintaining an appropriate support and guidance capacity at United Nations Headquarters to ensure adequate oversight and guidance to the field and to complement the work of the Integrated Training Service. In this context the Special Committee requests that the Secretariat consider the viability of having a police operational advisory capacity in the Police Division.

157. The Special Committee welcomes the free and multilingual delivery of peacekeeping distance learning through the E-learning for African Peacekeepers and E-learning for Peacekeepers from Latin America and the Caribbean programmes provided by the Peace Operations Training Institute. The Special Committee appreciates the voluntary contributions that made it possible for the Peace Operations Training Institute to offer 22 courses in English, with ongoing translations into Arabic, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and encourages Member States to support the creation of additional courses and translations. The Special Committee also welcomes the integrated distance learning programmes provided directly to the peacekeeping missions by the Peace Operations Training Institute. The Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Institute to work together to promote the existing e-learning programmes, and highlights the importance of ensuring the use and further development of these materials.

158. The Special Committee notes the recent dissolution of the e-learning relationship between UNITAR and the Programme of Correspondence Instruction in Peacekeeping Operations (now replaced by the Peace Operations Training Institute). Given the end of this relationship the Special Committee welcomes the emergence of the new partnership between the Peace Operations Training Institute and the United Nations-mandated University for Peace, which will enable students to earn an Executive Master of Arts in peace operations through a blending of the Institute's e-learning and the University's classroom courses. The Special Committee urges the

University and the Institute to offer as many scholarships as possible for peacekeepers from developing countries and welcomes the support of Member States.

159. The Special Committee underlines that training and raising of awareness in regard to misconduct are among the key elements in ensuring the orderly conduct of United Nations personnel. The Special Committee believes that troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat play important roles in this respect.

M. Personnel

160. The Special Committee recognizes the efforts made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support with regard to balanced recruiting of staff in accordance with the Charter, the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and urges the Secretary-General to continue his efforts. The Special Committee reiterates that, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter, in the employment of staff the paramount consideration shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and that due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The Special Committee notes that the gender perspective should continue to be pursued in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

161. The Special Committee believes that appropriate representation in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and peacekeeping missions should also take into account the contributions by Member States. The Special Committee urges the Secretary-General to ensure a fair representation of troop-contributing countries when selecting personnel for such staff positions.

162. The Special Committee acknowledges the progress made by the Secretariat in ensuring a better representation of troop-contributing countries, in particular developing countries, in regard to senior mission leadership appointments, and requests that this trend be continued.

163. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 2 of section X of General Assembly resolution 63/250, expresses concern at the continuing low proportion of women in the Secretariat, in particular the low proportion of women from developing countries, especially at the senior levels, and stresses that, in the recruitment process, the continuing lack of representation or the underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular developing countries, should be taken into account and that those women should be accorded equal opportunities, in full conformity with relevant resolutions.

164. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 7 of section IX of General Assembly resolution 63/250, reiterates the request to the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure, at the senior and policymaking levels of the Secretariat, equitable representation of Member States, especially those with inadequate representation at those levels, and to continue to include relevant information thereon in future reports to the Special Committee.

165. The Special Committee remains concerned about the high number of vacancies in peacekeeping missions, and requests the Secretariat to accelerate the recruitment and approval process of personnel, including senior mission leadership.

166. The Special Committee recalls section II of General Assembly resolution 63/250, and requests the Secretary-General to swiftly implement the decisions on contractual arrangements and harmonization of conditions of service, as a means of dealing with the high vacancy issue in peacekeeping operations.

167. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 6 of section XI of General Assembly resolution 59/296, requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure greater use of national staff in peacekeeping operations, when feasible.

168. The Special Committee recalls that English and French are the two working languages of the Secretariat. The Special Committee underlines the importance of effective interaction between Headquarters and the field to ensure efficient communications and the safety of all peacekeeping personnel. In this regard, it encourages the Secretary-General to take steps to employ staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support who are competent in the Secretariat's working languages.

169. The Special Committee acknowledges that the interaction of United Nations military, police and civilian personnel with the local population is necessary for the efficient and successful action of peacekeeping operations. To that end, language skills are required and shall constitute an important element of the selection and training processes. Therefore, the Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to make further efforts in recruiting staff and experts on mission with language skills that are relevant to the particular mission area where they are to be deployed, to address specific requirements of peacekeeping operations. In particular, good command of the official language spoken in the country should be taken into account as an essential asset during these processes.

170. The Special Committee reminds the Secretariat that staff sent to United Nations field operations to conduct examinations for experts on mission, in particular examinations in language and driving skills, are to be certified and adhere to examination criteria based on the standard United Nations programmes.

171. The Special Committee notes the efforts made by the Police Division and the Office of Military Affairs in recruiting French-speaking peacekeepers, especially police officers, to address specific requirements of peacekeeping operations.

172. The Special Committee is concerned that the United Nations death and disability claims process for peacekeeping personnel is overly cumbersome, lengthy and lacking in transparency. The Special Committee notes also that discrepancies exist between the compensation benefits provided to experts on mission and those provided to members of contingents. The Special Committee in this context recalls section X of General Assembly resolution 61/276 and requests the Secretary-General to ensure its full and timely implementation.

N. Financial issues

173. The Special Committee recalls all provisions of General Assembly resolutions, in particular paragraph 1 of resolution 61/279, reaffirming that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters. The Special Committee also recalls rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

174. The Special Committee again stresses that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. It reaffirms the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

175. The Special Committee expresses concern over the significant amounts of outstanding reimbursements that the United Nations currently owes to troop-contributing countries, which may adversely affect the capacity of this important tool for United Nations peacekeeping. The Special Committee also notes that there are still contributors that have not yet been reimbursed for their participation in various ongoing and closed missions, going back more than a decade. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to continue to look into practical modalities to address this exceptional circumstance and to inform Member States at the earliest opportunity of progress made in this endeavour.

176. The Special Committee stresses the importance of ensuring the timely reimbursement of troop-contributing countries for their peacekeeping contributions. In this regard, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure the rapid processing and payment of reimbursements.

177. The financial contribution by States Members of the United Nations is essential to the success of United Nations peacekeeping operations and timely and unconditional payments are important. The Special Committee recognizes that the views of contributors other than troop-contributing countries should also be taken into account, as appropriate. The Special Committee stresses the importance of holding regular, routine consultations between all stakeholders and the main peacekeeping decision-making bodies.

178. The Special Committee welcomes the fact that the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment agreed to its recommendations by consensus. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of effective and transparent inspections of contingent-owned equipment. The Special Committee acknowledges that troop costs have not been reviewed since 2002 and looks forward to the recommendations the Fifth Committee will make on this matter during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

179. The Special Committee expresses its concern at the delays experienced in housing peacekeeping personnel in appropriate accommodation that provides adequate protection against the elements in all missions, and requests the Secretariat to take the necessary measures to improve the situation pursuant to the contingent-owned equipment manual.

O. Other matters

180. The Special Committee is convinced of the importance of recognizing the contribution of Member States providing police to peacekeeping operations and the increasing reference to police-contributing countries already contained in this report. In this regard, the Special Committee acknowledges the need to clarify the terms "troop-contributing countries" and "police-contributing countries". The Committee is committed to referring this question as a matter of priority to its next substantive session in order to resolve any ambiguities. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to report on any implications, including legal, of updating established terminology before its 2010 substantive session.

Annex

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2009 session

The Special Committee currently consists of the following 144 members: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Panama, Somalia, Holy See, African Union, European Community, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Criminal Court, International Organization of la Francophonie, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

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